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VIII.—*Notices of New Zealand.* From Original Documents in the Colonial Office, communicated by R. W. Hay, Esq. Read the 9th of April, 1832.

‘ IN New Zealand flax may be obtained in an unlimited quantity, and there is abundance of fine timber of all sizes and dimensions for ship-building and other purposes. Thousands of tons of shipping may be employed in the flax trade alone; and the timber which grows occasionally to a great height, and not unfrequently six feet in diameter, may be procured in any quantity. The country is rich in mineral and vegetable productions; the soil fertile and easy of culture.

‘ In both islands there are extensive lakes; and the rivers are also numerous, and mostly navigable, generally running north and south, and branching off into others, from which run numerous streams and creeks. The rise and fall of tide along the whole coast is considerable, but greatest to the southward; at Kokianga (which is to the northward) it is fourteen or fifteen feet in the springs. The harbours and bays are, perhaps, the finest in the world, and few countries, indeed, possess so many equally capacious, safe, and easy of access. The climate is very healthy, and free from those hot and pestilential winds, destructive to cultivation, which characterize the climate of New South Wales: nor is the thermometer subject to the sudden changes observable there.

‘ From all the information that can be collected, New Zealand is far from being thickly peopled; but is rich, beautiful, and fertile. The natives have an intuitive respect, blended with fear, for the English,—the chiefs, for the most part, desiring to place themselves under British protection. They do *not* possess courage, but are cunning, easily taught, clever, fond of show, hardy, and capable of undergoing great fatigue. They require to be treated with a mixture of kindness and firmness.

‘ With regard to the whaling establishments in New Zealand, it may be observed, that as they are of use only for about four months in the year, they are not likely to become permanent, unless combined with some other pursuit for the summer season. And from the destructive nature of the fishery (the females being killed at the time of calving) the trade cannot last many years; but like the sealing, will eventually fail from extermination, or from the desertion of the land by the harassed animals. The fishery is confined to the middle and Stewart’s islands, the whales not being found north of Cook’s Straits.

‘ The flax settlements will rapidly assume a more permanent form, as the present desultory and speculative system progressively fails from the increasing unwillingness of the natives to dress the

hemp, and from its depreciated value at home on account of the dirty state in which it is supplied.

‘There seems yet but little prospect of uniting any number of the natives under one leader. They are subdivided into many small communities or families, without any one individual having the slightest recognized authority, and are excessively jealous of each other and of their equality. With the exception of slaves, they have no distinctions of rank, every one, not a slave, being equal to every other. The elder of a family, in time of peace, meets with some little deference;—in war the most enterprising takes the lead. The property of the soil is well defined, their jurisprudence extensive, and its penalties are submitted to without opposition, even by the stronger party. We find amongst them none of the volatile spirits of the islanders in warmer latitudes, but a proud, haughty, independent race, who think deeply, reason acutely, compare the past with the present, anticipate the future, and are as dogged and persevering amidst their fogs as the Briton is in his.

‘In the four Church Mission stations of Rangiliona, Renken, Paihia, and Waimate, there are, under a regular course of education, about three hundred and twenty New Zealanders, whose average age is sixteen years. When the hours appointed for instruction in reading, writing, and accounts, are expired, the greater number of these natives are employed in the mission, some in building, others as carpenters, and others in general labour. There are three substantial chapels, capable of holding from two to three hundred each, in which services are held three times every Sunday, and always well attended.

‘The natives are anxious to be placed under the protection of British law, and would be willing to receive any person vested with power to enforce it.’

### *References to the Chart.*

A. ‘Sandy Bay. The river Ranganna falls into this bay. Clear channel, three fathoms; rise and fall fourteen feet. It rises south-west, and has a course of about forty miles through a rich flax country, not yet frequented by Europeans.

B. ‘The River Hoduda falls into this bay after running through a fine timber country; but is accessible only to small vessels.

C. ‘Wangaroo Bay, a fine harbour, formerly the location of the Wesleyan Mission. No navigable river; fine courie pine grows in the vicinity, but difficult to bring down.

D. ‘Bay of Islands, or Tokeran, the most frequented port in New Zealand, particularly by the outward and homeward bound

whalers, both British and American. It is the seat of the Church Mission, who are now a very numerous body. Including the missionaries and their families, the white population of the Bay of Islands must exceed one hundred.

‘A few miles south of this port is the pretty little harbour of Wangari. We then come to the river Thames, which is well known.

E. ‘Taoranga: three or four white men here in charge of flax belonging to different vessels;—they are only casual residents.

F. ‘Mascetu—a flax settlement; four Europeans here; likely to be a permanent and increasing establishment. The Bay of Plenty is one of the richest flax districts in the northern islands; but the rivers Taoranga and Maketu are both small and incommo-  
dious, and the open roadstead is dangerous. White Island in this bay is an active volcano. Mount Edgecombe is about ten thousand feet above the sea.

G. ‘Hawkes Bay;—at Turanga, in this bay, is a flax establishment, with five or six white men resident. Timber very fine of all kinds, but not easy of access; and the bay is very open.

H. ‘Port Nicolson, a noble harbour.

I. ‘Entry Island, or Kapiti. This is the general native depôt for the flax dressed on the north shore of Cook’s Straits. It is very much resorted to by vessels in search of flax. There were, by the last accounts, thirty Europeans upon it;—some few as agents for persons in Sydney, but, for the most part, idlers of bad character. At this island the brig Elizabeth Stewart received on board the chief Ranparara, and two hundred men, for transport to Banks’ Peninsula.

K. ‘Taraaki. No harbour, but good roadstead. There are eight or ten European idlers who live as natives; it is much resorted to for flax. Mount Egmont is an active volcano.

L. ‘Gannet Island. On the main, opposite this island, is the harbour of Kawia; a bar entrance two and a half fathoms. Here are several small flax depôts, under the charge of European agents of parties in Sydney, and others.

‘Between this and Kokianga are the rivers—Wackato, shallow and with a dangerous bar entrance; Manuka, clear channel of seven fathoms, with a magnificent stream rising north-east close to a branch of the river Thames, the neighbouring country abounding with the finest timber and flax, but not inhabited; and Karpapa, a fine basin about eight miles across, having five considerable rivers running into it from different directions after traversing beautiful timber and flax districts;—one approaches so near to the Thames on the east side, that the natives drag their canoes from one to the other. It has a bar entrance from the sea; soundings unknown.

M. 'River Kokianja, well known and surveyed. The Wesleyan Mission resides here, about twenty miles from the mouth. A mile higher up is the settlement, for ship-building and other purposes, established originally by Messrs. Browne and Baine, now occupied by Mr. Macdowell. It still gives employment to about twenty mechanics, but the dock-yard is abandoned. Total Europeans about fifty-two. The middle island (Kaikolda) is yet but little known. There are now no natives on the shore of Cook's Straits, nor on the west side of the island. The east side is also but thinly peopled along the coast.

N. 'Cloudy Bay is the chief resort of the black whalers. This fishery is generally carried on by vessels moored in the numerous fine coves, with try works on board.

O. 'Banks' Peninsula; scene of the horrid massacre by the brig Elizabeth Stewart, the most northern native town on the island.

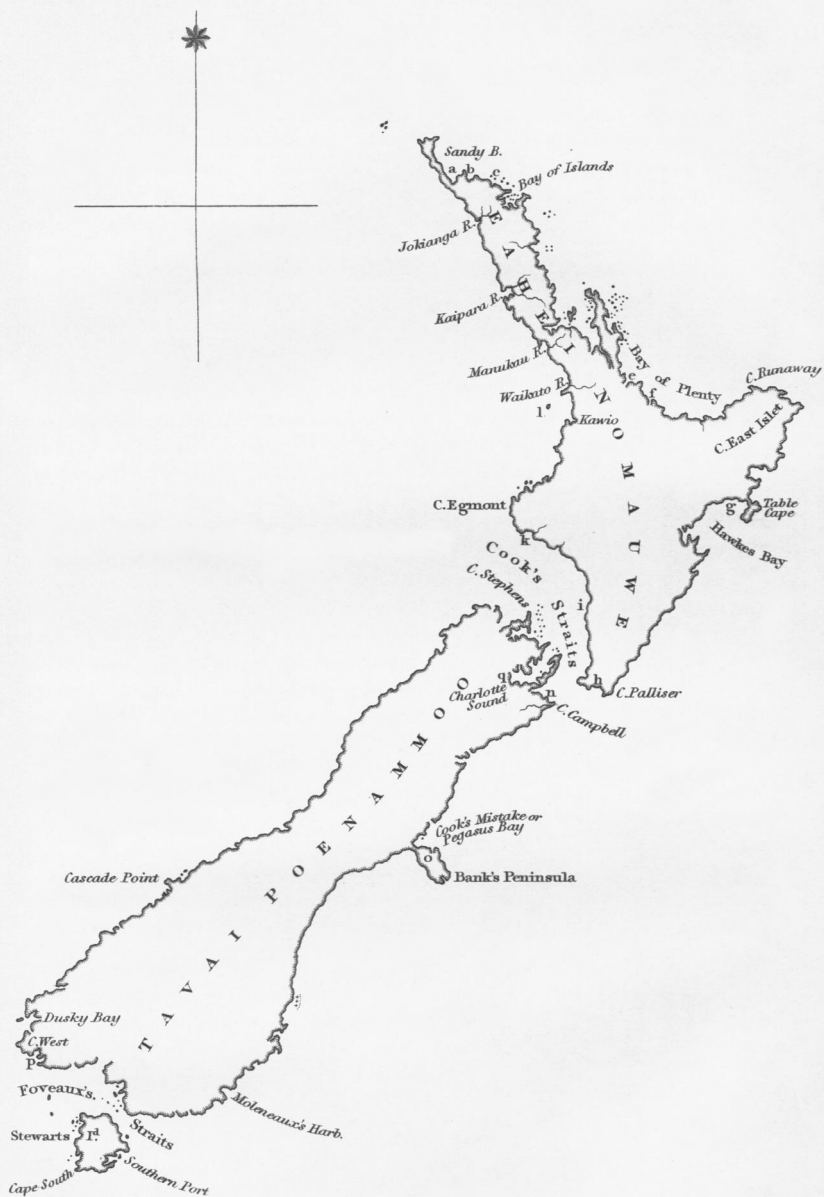
P. 'Preservation Harbour and Chaldy Bay, both fine harbours. Several whaling establishments. The middle island is frequented by the black whalers belonging to Van Diemen's Land.

'In the year 1818, 60 tons of New Zealand flax were sent from Sydney to England, of the value of 2600*l*. In 1830, twenty-eight vessels, averaging  $110\frac{2}{3}$  tons burthen each, made, in the aggregate, fifty-six voyages to New Zealand; the total tonnage thus cleared having been 5888 tons. In the same year, twenty-six different vessels, of the average tonnage of  $114\frac{1}{2}$  tons each, made forty-six passages inwards to Sydney, their aggregate being 4959 tons.

'It also appears, that of seventy-eight vessels which cleared out from Sydney "for foreign states, South Sea Islands, and fisheries," fifty-six were to touch at New Zealand; and of sixty-four arrived under the same heads, forty-six had been there.'

IX.—*Particulars of an Expedition up the Zambezi to Senna, performed by three Officers of His Majesty's Ship Leven, when surveying the East Coast of Africa in 1823. From Materials communicated by Captain W. F. W. Owen, R.N. Read June 11, 1832.*

THE party consisted of Lieutenant Browne, Mr. Forbes, midshipman, and Mr. Kilpatrick, assistant-surgeon, attended by two black servants, one of whom was from the dock-yard at the Cape, where he had been apprenticed after his deliverance from a slave vessel; the other a free man, who spoke Portuguese, and on that



## NEW ZEALAND.

50 0 50 100 150 200  
Geographical Miles